Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DPW-01 DHA-02 AID-05 OMB-01

ACDA-10 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /112 W ------ 075137

R 201158Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1007

INFO AMCONGEN HONGKONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 20516

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA, TH, VN

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S PROPOSED VISITS TO LAOS AND VIET-NAM

REF: (A) BANGKOK 20326 (B) BANGKOK 20325

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LEK NANA TOLD PRESS JULY 20 THAT HE THOUGHT MFA WOULD SOON PROPOSE DATES TO PDRL FOR FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAI'S VISIT TO LAOS (REF A). HE NOTED THAT AMONG ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WOULD BE REOPENING OF THE BORDER. THE DEPUTY MINISTER ADDED THAT DATES FOR PHICHAI'S HANOI VISIT (REF B) WERE NOT YET FIXED, BUT IT WOULD PROBABLY OCCUR IN MID-AUGUST. LEK NANA ALSO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT VIETNAMESE RELEASED THE 205 THAI FISHERMEN BEING HELD PRISONER IN THAT COUNTRY BY BOAT JULY 19.

2. IN SEPARATE REMARKS, PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT TOLD UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESS THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE LAO INVITATION BUT

SAID PHICHAI SHOULD GO BECAUSE IT WOULD FURTHER THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, SENI DOES NOT PLAN TO REOPEN THE BORDER UNTIL FURTHER STUDY AND NEGOTIATION. ASKED WHETHER SOME WOULD NOT SAY "WE ARE DANCING TO THE TUNE OF THE COMMUNISTS", PRIME MINISTER REPLIED ONLY THAT "ANYBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO HAVE THEIR OWN VIEW".

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, LA, TH, VN, (PHICHAI RATTAKUN)

To: STATE

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